DECONSTRUCTING THE NORMALIZATION OF CONSENSUAL NON-MONOGAMY (CNM): A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF METHODOLOGICAL BIAS, CAPITALIST INDUSTRY, PARENTING IMPACTS, AND ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

Contemporary Western sociological and psychological discourses have undergone a massive shift, marked by increasing efforts to normalize the lifestyle of Consensual Non-Monogamy (CNM) or open marriage. This article aims to provide a critical deconstruction of this narrative through a multidisciplinary approach. We dissect the presence of methodological flaws (sampling bias) and the influence of funding from the dating technology industry behind pro-CNM research. Furthermore, this article analyzes the destructive impacts of CNM on parenting functions, children's emotional health, and the phenomenon of coerced non-monogamy (the coercion of relationships through custody threats) currently prevalent in Europe. Finally, this article contextualizes these empirical data with a review of Islamic law (Fiqh) and Islamic epistemology, which view the exclusivity of domestic relations within a stable marriage—both in the form of monogamy and sharia-compliant polygyny—as an epidemiological shield (epidemiological bridge prevention) and a psychological pillar of civilization.

Keywords: Consensual Non-Monogamy, Sampling Bias, Dating Industry, Stable Marriage, Parenting, Coerced Consent, Islamic Law.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, the institution of the family has faced aggressive deconstruction from progressive Western currents of thought. One of its primary manifestations is the introduction of the term *Consensual Non-Monogamy* (CNM) or *Ethical Non-Monogamy* (ENM). This concept is claimed by some researchers to be a healthy, honest, and egalitarian evolution of human relationships.

However, these "scientific" claims have engendered deep skepticism among clinical practitioners and methodological scientists. This article will demonstrate that the normalization of CNM is not the result of objective, pure science, but rather the product of ideological corruption within academia, backed by the interests of digital capitalism. This phenomenon empirically dismantles the psychosocial order of the family, degrades the quality of parenting, and threatens the biological health of society by undermining the pillars of a stable marriage.

II. METHODOLOGICAL CRITIQUE AND POLITICAL ECONOMY BEHIND PRO-CNM RESEARCH

2.1 Sampling Bias and Academic Suppression (Publication Bias)

The majority of research claiming that CNM practitioners are "happy and egalitarian" suffers from a fatal methodological flaw. These studies generally utilize *convenience sampling* drawn directly from online forums or

communities of CNM practitioners themselves. This creates a *honeymoon phase bias*, wherein the gathered samples only represent individuals who have recently entered such relationships and are experiencing the euphoria of newfound freedom.

Conversely, a massive *publication bias* occurs due to the influence of *cancel culture* within Western universities. Honest research finding correlations between open relationships and depression, childhood trauma, high divorce rates, and the transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) is deliberately suppressed from publication in mainstream journals because it does not align with progressive campus narratives.

2.2 The Commercialization of Relationships: Funding from the Dating Technology Industry

Science does not operate in a vacuum; it is driven by capital. The digital dating application industry, worth billions of dollars, holds a direct capital interest in the collapse of the **stable marriage institution**. If the global population remains committed to the **concept of a solid and established marital relationship**, the dating app market will face stagnation.

This industry actively pours research grants into the social sciences to promote alternative ideas that blur domestic relationship boundaries. The ultimate goal is to create a commodification of relationships, wherein humans are positioned as individual, insatiable consumer units continually seeking new objects of sexual consumption through the circulation of digital platforms, thereby degrading the noble value of marriage for the sake of capital turnover.

III. PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND DESTRUCTIVE IMPACTS ON PARENTING

3.1 The Collapse of the Secure Base and Emotional Neglect of Children

According to *Attachment Theory*, children require a stable, consistent, and predictable environment to develop healthy mentalities. When parents divide their emotional and physical focus among outside partners who share no legal domestic bond, the household ecosystem becomes volatile. Children, as highly perceptive observers, absorb the tension and chronic anxiety generated by their parents' extra-marital romantic dramas. This diversion of parental emotional energy outside the marital circle constitutes a form of covert *emotional neglect*.

3.2 The Phenomenon of Parentification and Long-Term Trust Issues

The long-term sociological impact on children raised in CNM families is a severe distortion of the concept of commitment. They lose the essential *modeling* of integrity within a marriage. Upon reaching adulthood, these children statistically exhibit a higher risk of experiencing *profound trust issues* and a fear of entering serious marital relationships. Furthermore, the phenomenon of *parentification* frequently occurs, wherein children are forced to mature before their time to act as mediators for emotional conflicts or as keepers of secrets regarding their parents' "ethical" sexual adventures outside the home.

3.3 The Dark Side of Europe: Coerced Non-Monogamy via Custody Threats

Qualitative data from marriage therapists and family law practitioners in Europe (such as France, Germany, and the UK) reveal that the term "consent" in CNM is frequently the result of emotional blackmail (*coerced consent*).

Numerous cases indicate one party demanding an open relationship by issuing a divorce ultimatum to their partner. Given that family courts in several European nations award child custody to the mother **absolutely**

(*maternal presumption*), husbands often find themselves held hostage. To avoid losing their children and facing the burden of restrictive financial child support, husbands are forced to agree to an open relationship with a broken heart. This is a form of domestic abuse falsely deconstructed under the guise of "sexual liberation."

IV. GLOBAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REVIEW AS EMPIRICAL VALIDATION

Data from the CDC (United States) and the ECDC (Europe) act as scientific interrogators that dismantle the CNM utopia. As the West normalizes the multiplication of partners through CNM and dating apps, syphilis and gonorrhea infection rates have surged to record highs in modern history. While the majority of those infected belong to the single demographic, transmission within married cohorts continues to creep upward due to a "network breach" caused by open relationship activities outside official marital bonds.

Conversely, looking at global comparisons, in regions that uphold the law of strict fidelity within a valid and stable institution of marriage, STI rates remain near zero. This epidemiological data empirically proves a law of nature: **A Closed Sexual Network within the framework of a valid, stable, and exclusive marriage is the only valid biological shield to halt the transmission of sexually transmitted pathogens.**

V. THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE: EPISTEMOLOGY, JURISPRUDENCE (FIQH), AND MAQASID SHARIAH

Islam views the institution of marriage not merely as a secular, civil-social contract, but as a sacred bond (*mithaqan ghalizha*). Any attempt to blur the boundaries of domestic fidelity, including the concept of CNM, is absolutely rejected based on the following theological and legal arguments:

5.1 The Preservation of Progeny (Hifzhun Nasl)

Within the framework of *Maqasid ash-Shariah* (The Higher Objectives of Islamic Law), one of the five core pillars that must be protected is *Hifzhun Nasl* (The Preservation of Progeny). The concept of CNM utterly obliterates this pillar. The exchange of sexual partners in open relationships obfuscates lineage (*nasab*), disrupts inheritance laws, and ruins child custody (*hadhanah*). Islam prohibits fornication/adultery (*zina*)—and all avenues leading to it—precisely to preserve the sanctity of lineage and the psychological right of the child to be raised in a stable marital environment where emotional and biological accountability is clear and legally protected.

5.2 The Concept of Polygyny vs. Western CNM: Diametric Network Systems

Secular Western intellectuals frequently fall into a flawed simplification by equating Islamic polygyny with the concept of CNM. In reality, the two occupy diametrically opposed poles in network theory:

- **Polygamy in Islam** is a manifestation of a **stable, legal, structured marriage, embedded with full financial-legal responsibility, and must function as a *closed network***. The husband bears strict obligations of maintenance (*nafaqah*), equity (*'adl*), and the division of domestic time as regulated by Fiqh. The network is legally locked by sharia: the wives relate only to one husband, and the husband relates only to his legitimate wives. There is no point of entry for external sexual anarchy or pathogens outside the domestic circle.
- **Western CNM** is a sexual anarchy rooted in individual egoism that functions as an ***open network***. Within it, there are no legal marital responsibilities, no limits on the number of outside partners, and biological pathogens as well as psychological traumas are permitted to flow freely, destroying the domestic fortress.

5.3 The Principle of Sadduz Dzari'ah (Blocking the Means to Harm)

In the principles of Islamic jurisprudence (*Ushul Fiqh*), there exists the maxim of *Sadduz Dzari'ah*—blocking any means that may lead to harm or corruption (*mafsadah*). Empirical Western research regarding the surge in STIs, the destruction of children's mental health, and the blackmail of husbands through custody threats in the CNM phenomenon serves as concrete evidence of the *mafsadah* predicted by sharia. Islam seals this door of corruption tightly by decreeing the sanctity of a stable marital commitment and prescribing strict legal and social sanctions for any violation of this commitment or infiltration by extra-marital relations, thereby safeguarding the biological and psychological security of human civilization.

VI. CONCLUSION

Efforts to normalize Consensual Non-Monogamy (CNM) by certain Western academics are proven to be a form of agenda-driven science that is methodologically flawed and heavily funded by the digital dating industry, which seeks to dismantle the **institution of stable marriage**. Pro-CNM journals deliberately close their eyes to the clinical reality that open relationships damage children's mental health, strip away the essence of parenting, and trigger a global STI epidemiological crisis due to the collapse of relational safety systems.

Contemporary medical and sociological data validate the absolute truth of Islamic teachings: that a family structure based on a **stable**, legal, and sharia-compliant marital commitment operating within a closed network system—whether in the form of monogamy or sharia-sanctioned polygyny—is the only relationship design compatible with human psychological fitrah, biological safety, and the sustainability of future generations.

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Acknowledgment: *The author would like to acknowledge the use of Gemini (an AI tool developed by Google) as a writing assistant to help refine the academic language structure, format the text, and translate the manuscript. The conceptual framework, thematic directions, theological and jurisprudential arguments, and ultimate conclusions were entirely developed, analyzed, and verified by the author.*